

# The BUZZ WORD



A New Year's resolution is something that  
goes in one year and out the other



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

*Fulfilling the Promise*

**The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.**

**VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.**

*For any Further Questions, Please Contact:*

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**802-447-6523**



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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**January**



*From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson*

Happy New Year

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. Although COVID prevented us from having many of our traditional holiday celebrations at the Home, the staff went above and beyond to help our Veterans and Members celebrate the holidays.



As we start 2022, I am transitioning our weekly **Family Zoom Meetings** to a **monthly meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** of each month **at 6pm**. We will continue to hold family meetings when new positive cases are identified. Both the monthly Family Zoom Meeting and any meetings related to new positive COVID cases will use the same Zoom link which can be found on our website. **Our first meeting for 2022 will be Wednesday January 12, 2022, at 6pm.**

Some family members have expressed an interest in starting a Family Council. A Family Council is a group of family members, as defined by the residents, of the same nursing home that meets on a regular basis to discuss issues and concerns regarding the home and plan activities for the residents. This council is **independent**; it is organized by family members, not by VVH. The main purpose of a Family Council is to improve the quality of life in the home and to give family members a voice in the decisions that affect residents. The nursing home is required to listen to and act on family council recommendations on resident care and life at the home. VVH is willing to gather emails of those family members interested in starting a Family Council, sharing these emails with all interested parties, and facilitating the use of VVH technology for the council to meet virtually, if needed. If you are interested in participating in the Family Council, please let me know by January 15<sup>th</sup>. VVH staff will not participate in Family Council meetings unless invited by the Council.

Wishing you peace and joy in 2022.



**Melissa**

**Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA   Chief Executive Officer**

[www.Vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.Vvh.vermont.gov)



American Legion Auxiliary  
Post 69 - Dept of Vermont  
donated colored pencils,  
socks, paper and wrapping  
paper as well as various items  
to be used and enjoyed by the  
Veterans and Members of the  
Home.

*Thank You!*



*From the Deputy Administrator*  
**Asa Morin**



To Our VVH Families and Friends:

As we enter 2022, I look back on the past year and reflect upon the struggles, but also the moments of joy. Thank you for trusting us to care for your loved ones during these difficult times. And to the Veterans and Members, thank you for trusting us and adapting to all the changes that occurred. There were days where regulations would change more than once in a day and the support and patience from you was greatly appreciated.

We cannot predict what 2022 will bring, but I hope it will bring frequent visits from family and friends and eventually the return of gatherings and activities that mean so much to the community here.

January 23-29 is Activity Professionals Week. I want to thank the amazing Activities staff who bring joy all year round with their positive attitudes and creativity. The activities they planned over the past year, working within tricky COVID restrictions, were greatly appreciated by all.

I hope you all had very happy holidays and I wish you a Happy New Year!



Asa Morin, AIT, MSW, LICSW    COO/Deputy Administrator    (802) 447-6544    [asa.morin@vermont.gov](mailto:asa.morin@vermont.gov)



COVID could not keep Santa and Mrs. Claus from the annual Tree Lighting ceremony.

They brought the gift of hope and good cheer that next year there will be caroling and SNOW!

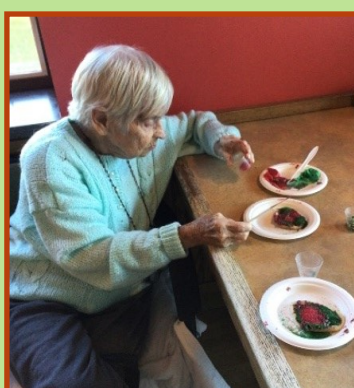
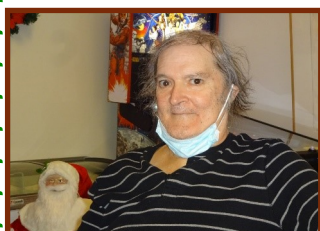
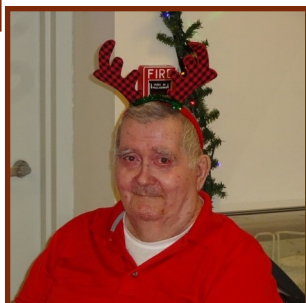
**Thank  
You**

to those individuals who were behind the scenes of the tree lighting: Ed Flynn with Monument Electric for the use of a bucket truck to string lights with the aid of Jim White, Mike Saddler, Paul Kennedy, Phil Young and Dick Frantz.





Decorating the Tree — getting into the Christmas spirit  
on  
American Way



North Village Cookie Decorations





Michele Burgess, (l) and Asa Morin (5th from left) accept snacks and homemade cookies from the ladies of the VFW Auxiliary 1332 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39.



Christmas Tree and Challenge Coin donations by The Green Mountain Bull Dawg Chapter of the Antique Truck Club of America and VT State Troopers were received by Asa Morin and Melissa Jackson.  
L-R: Asa, Mike diMonda, Perry Young, Don Keelan, Melissa, Jim White, Fred Zsido and the State Troopers.



VVH Staff and residents participated in "Festive Sweater Day".







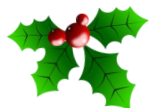
Veterans and members enjoy the musical styling of the Carolers from Mount Anthony Union High School



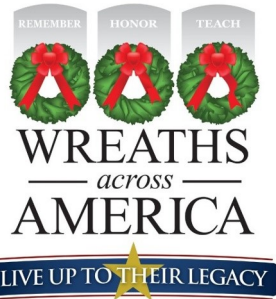
**Thank you Activities Department** for the beautiful decorations throughout the building and activities throughout the year. Upper left, front: Matt, Rae Ann, Michele, Sarah, Ginny and Holly. Back: Samantha, Kelly, Santa and Michelle



**Thank you also to Environmental Services** for the wonderful outdoor decorations.







## THANK YOU

Rolling Thunder Vermont 1 laid wreaths during a small private ceremony to honor those who served their country. The day began with sunshine but snow began to fall blanketing the grounds and the volunteers.

Melissa was also presented with a very generous donation from the organization.



## DONATIONS



Members of the Robert L. Johnson VFW Post 771 of Springfield, presented gifts for each Veteran and a very generous monetary gift to Melissa and Asa.



Door wreaths were made by the Molly Stark School K-5 Learners in the Education Project of the America Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 and VFW Post 1332 Auxiliary.



On behalf of the Veterans and Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations:

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts  
 Sharon & Ronnie Mack  
 Andrea L. Churchill-Boutwell  
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50  
 Betty Brundige  
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13  
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69  
 American Legion Unit 69  
 Green Mountain Classics  
 Patricia Morris  
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39  
 Daughters of Isabella, St. Ann Circle #1401  
 Gloria Toro  
 Red Mountain Chapter of the Eastern Star  
 VFW Post 1332 Auxiliary  
 Equinox Valley Nursery  
 Stephanie Casey  
 Center for Restorative Justice  
 VFW Auxiliary 758  
 Willard Mountain DAR  
 Dorothea Casey  
 Florence Bastidas  
 Dale & Glenda Kreiman  
 Joel Whiting  
 Kathleen Praetorius  
 American Legion Auxiliary —Dept of VT, Inc.  
 Am. Legion Green Mountain Post 1-Am. Legion Riders  
 Lisa Schultheis  
 Janet Nido  
 VFW Post 798 Ladies Auxiliary  
 American Legion J. Claire Carmody Legion Riders  
 American Legion Aux. — Dept. of Vermont  
 Robert L. Johnson VFW Post 771  
 Steve Leach  
 Molly Stark School K-5 Learners  
 Nelson Blanchard  
 Retired Teachers Association  
 State of Vermont VFW  
 VA and Rehab—Department of Vermont  
 Ballard Hobart American Legion Post 36  
 Hannaford Supermarkets

Tree Lighting Team of Ed Flynn, Jim White,  
 Mike Saddler, Paul Kennedy, Phil Young and Dick Frantz

In Loving Memory of Jesse Classon  
 Diane Chapman

In Loving Memory of David Schroder  
 Marilyn Keyes

In Loving Memory of Carl Davison  
 Linda Way

In Loving Memory of  
 Eveleth Basso & Warren Brundigg  
 American Legion Post 49

In Loving Memory of Lawrence King  
 Hyde Park VFW Auxiliary Post 779

**In Loving Memory of Arthur Mowe**

Alfred & Mary Ann Caproni  
 James & Lydia Carollo  
 Audrey J. Eilers  
 Michael & Cheryl Haddad  
 Roger & Nancy Johnson  
 Joseph & Susan Horton  
 John & Bonnie Lipa  
 Albert & Lorraine Mancuso  
 Thomas & Marcia Partenope  
 Elizabeth Ziemba  
 Florence R. Oleskiewicz

**In Loving Memory of Judith Sommerville**

Michael Lillie  
 Lorraine Gates  
 Shirley L. Mason  
 Kevin D. Krawczyk

**In Loving Memory of Alan Palmer**

Diane Scichitano

**In Loving Memory of Raymond Swintin**

Irene Steady  
 VFW Auxiliary #7823

**VVH Staff Recognition  
 Years of Service**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Melissa Jackson — 11 years  
 Kimberly Denny-Telford — 14 years

**CLEANING/HOUSEKEEPING/LAUNDRY**

Dolores Burdick — 20 years  
 Dawn Leonard — 10 years  
 Lena Sterns — 3 years

**DIETARY**

Lawrence Goldwyn—17 years  
 Paul Yerke—2 years

**NURSING**

Dawn Keus — 28 years  
 Laura Bottesi — 9 years  
 Ann Carbin — 6 years  
 Sheila Floyd — 6 years  
 Anne Hatton — 5 years  
 Kayla Perkins — 4 years  
 Sandra Quackenbush — 1 year



### THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)  
Click on About Our Home  
Click on Newsletters
  - ♦ Email
  - ♦ Mailing List (postal)
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

Robyn Boland  
(802) 447-6523  
Email: [Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov](mailto:Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov)

### VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles  
(4th Generation)



Newspaper Subscriptions  
Bingo Prizes      Crafts  
Neck Pillows      Stamps  
CD Players      I-Tune Cards  
Body Pillows      Costume Jewelry  
Outdoor Benches  
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

***Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:***

***Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201***

**Your donations are gratefully accepted.  
THANK YOU**

**Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing.** We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

#### Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members  
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing  
Other personal needs

#### Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation  
Supplies, Equipment

#### Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment  
Large purchase

#### Activities Fund:

Entertainment

#### Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

#### NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward  
a paved walkway around  
the perimeter of the VVH

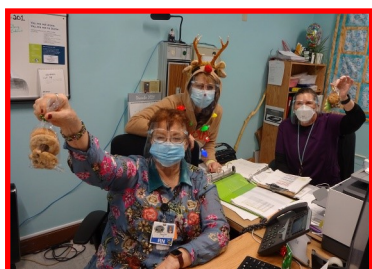
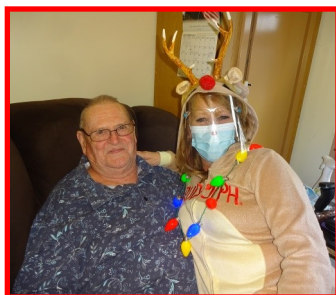
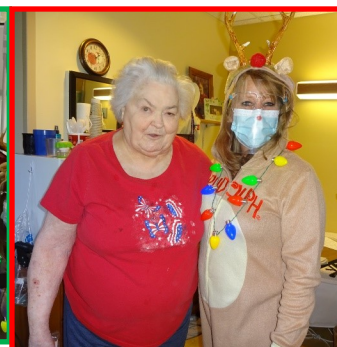
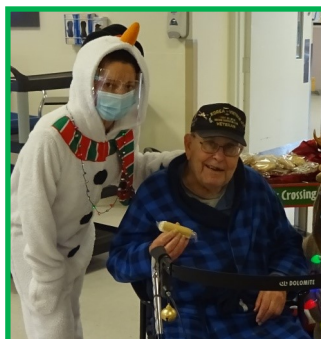


to the Equinox Valley Nursery for the 100 red and white poinsettias that now adorn the hallways and neighborhoods of the Home and for the very generous monetary donation.





Wreaths made by Molly Stark Elementary Students were given to our Veterans and Members as jolly decorations for their doors.



Who needs Elves when you have the VVH Reindeer and The Snowpersion delivering goodies from the "DEER CROSSING" cart? Veterans and Members not only got cookies, hugs were freely given as were wishes of good cheer.





*From our Home  
to yours,  
Happy New  
Year*

***“FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the  
Veterans of Vermont and their families”***



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

